

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

FROM SUPERVISOR KAUFFMAN



TOWN MEETING OCTOBER 26th!

Look for more information inside

"When You Find Yourself in a Hole, the First Thing You do is Stop Digging"

When faced with a challenge, I always prefer to focus on what I can do rather than on what I can't. One of the biggest challenges we all face is the flip side of our success. With everyone wanting to live and work in Northern Virginia, gridlock and development issues are on our calendar daily. We are moving to take charge of our growth and here's what you can do to help.

For the first time in fifteen years, the Board of Supervisors has enacted comprehensive revisions to how we regulate residential development. We've seen home development change from large projects to small ones surrounded by established neighborhoods. The new ordinance recognizes this change and makes it possible to preserve more trees and incorporate more community wishes into a developer's plan. I am proud to have initiated this action.

The Board also approved a cash proffer formula that finally considers the impact of development on our neighborhood schools. While it won't solve our problems with "by right" development on land that is already zoned, it's a good step forward. It wasn't easy to get this change and I fought hard to persuade my colleagues to approve it.

In another significant land use change, the Board approved my proposal to "down plan" the Telegraph Road Corridor from Beulah to the Beltway. As a result, at least 150 new houses will not be built and will not add to our school trailers and roadway congestion. At the same time, a task force composed of community-selected representatives voted to reject seven of nine proposed plan changes for development elsewhere in the district and scaled back the remaining two.

The long-awaited extension of South Van Dorn Street to Telegraph Road has finally begun and I have persuadedichmond to release funds to complete the improvements to Beulah Street. One thousand new parking spaces are under construction at the Franconia-Springfield Metro station with five hundred to follow at Huntington. We're doing our part to stop digging the hole deeper.

That being said, I am the first to acknowledge that this falls short of our needs. Here's where each of us has a critical role to play. On November 5, you can vote to jump start funding to bring transportation projects in line with existing transportation demand. We've throttled-back the residential development but we're all still in a hole that won't get filled without your action. To find out more about the referendum and other items on the ballot, please read on in your newsletter.

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Polishing Springfield's Image

Revitalization is more than bricks and mortar. Much of it is intangible, based on perception. A year ago, as part of its revitalization activities, C-SPARC (Central Springfield Area Revitalization Council) formed the Springfield Image Task Force to develop and highlight a new image for Springfield Downtown. The task force surveyed local businesses and shoppers and is now working on several projects. These include developing a visual theme for the downtown area; coordinating unified marketing activities; and encouraging beautification and maintenance efforts. You may have read about the Task Force's 'Name That Downtown' contest (***The Heart of Springfield*** was the winning entry).



The Sheriff's Community Labor Force helped with the Central Springfield clean-up.

Sometimes it's the little things that can make or break a community. Trash scattered on the ground, overgrown grass, and weeds, and dirty streets can send the wrong message. I'm encouraged by the teamwork I've seen on the part of the public and private sector organizations and individuals that are involved in some way with Springfield.

In preparation for August's ***Lighting the Heart of Springfield*** celebration the Virginia Department of Transportation, C-SPARC, the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce, and several County agencies all pitched in to spruce up Springfield for this event.

The Fairfax County Division of Solid Waste and the Sheriff's Community Labor Force partnered to trim weeds and clear trash from the abandoned Houlihan's and Chi-Chi's sites along Old Keene Mill Road. Houlihan's is scheduled for demolition.

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Revitalization efforts in central Springfield aren't limited to the commercial core. Earlier this year, the County's deputy executive tasked a group of senior managers to make County services available to residents who wish to clean up their yards swung into action. The October clean-up included litter patrols, and special trash pick-ups for large items. VDOT sent a street sweeper to clean surrounding streets and Clean Fairfax Council provided vests, hats, gloves, and garbage bags. Company 22 fire station sent its canteen truck to feed hard-working volunteers and Lake Accotink Park donated lunch.

Our downtown development plan needs both public and private sector involvement. We need the public sector to build infrastructure such as roads, parking, and other public use facilities. Several opportunities are at hand, including relocating the "slug" operation – the ad hoc ridership program operating for over 15 years where Keene Mill Road passes through the downtown area. Transportation studies point to the need for a parking facility convenient to a carpool staging area. This facility could also serve downtown shoppers. Several sites are being considered. Shared uses make revitalization projects more viable and cost effective.

EPG Re-Planned to Save Open Space

The EPG (Engineer Proving Ground) is the largest piece of developable land left in our area and what happens to it will have a significant impact on this area. (Most of the site lies between Backlick and Rolling Road.) A citizen task force developed a plan to guide the future development of this 820-acre site. The new plan amends the County's Comprehensive Land Use Plan and reduces the development potential of the site. It also eliminates the possibility that a major sports stadium could be built on the site and cuts by two-thirds the potential residential units. The Plan preserves about 480 acres (the entire western section of the site) to be used for public parkland. Instead of a stadium for professional sports, the task force recommended a quality regional athletic facility for our youth. I am happy to report that the Board of Supervisors approved these changes on my motion.

Springfield Steps Up to the Economic Future

Who would have thought that information technology and telecommunications—the red-hot leading edge of Fairfax County's economic strength—would cool down? Fortunately, we are well positioned to take advantage of the next growth industry with a bio-incubator in Springfield. Known as the BioAccelerator, it has already landed three client companies and will be a catalyst for job growth close to home. The BioAccelerator is on Loisdale Road, near the new medical education campus.

Medical Education Campus

Northern Virginia Community College's Medical Education campus will open in summer 2003 for the fall semester. The six-acre campus is on Springfield Center Drive, south of Springfield Mall and east of I-95. The main building will have classrooms and laboratories, a library, an event center, and a medical mall. A six-level parking garage will accommodate faculty and students and there will be a shuttle bus from the Franconia/Springfield Metro station to the campus. Our local high school students will be able to enroll in college-level courses on site or by distance learning.

Commuter News

Fairfax County now offers citizens a ride-matching service called Ride Sources. Using a regional database we help match riders with carpools and vanpools. To join the Ride Sources Program, or for more information about HOV lanes, Park & Ride locations, or the Guaranteed Ride Home Program call 703-324-1111.

Work Begins on New Metro Parking Garage

Almost since the first train pulled into the station, the Franconia/Springfield Metro has been one of the busiest in the system. This September construction began on a new parking garage that will add 1,000 spaces to the station.

Overflow parking is still available in the Macy's lot at Springfield Mall. Free shuttle buses (Metrobus S91 and TAGS Springfield Circulator) will run between the Macy's parking lot and the Metro.

If you would like more information about any of these stories please contact my office at (703) 971-6262.

Bridge Lighting Ceremony Marks End of Phases 2 and 3 of Mixing Bowl Project

If you were in central Springfield at dusk on August 27, you may have seen an unusual sight—a long line of perfectly normal looking people strolling across Veterans Bridge. These folks were enjoying the 'Lighting the Heart of Springfield,' event to celebrate the completion of mixing bowl construction in downtown Springfield. With its attractive façade and pedestrian/bicycle-friendly sidewalks and attractive lighting, the bridge is a fitting gateway to central Springfield.

Veterans Bridge, (also known as the Amherst Avenue Bridge) links both sides of Springfield's revitalization area and provides a safe pedestrian crossing over Old Keene Mill Road.



Supervisor Kauffman, son Ethan, and Chairman Hanley line up with the American Legion and VFW before the Veteran's Bridge Lighting Ceremony.

VDOT's original plans called for a utilitarian bridge with standard highway lighting. Given all the public and private sector effort that had gone into central Springfield, I believed our community deserved better. I am pleased that the time spent with VDOT, the Federal Highway Administration, Dominion Virginia Power, and the community got us the handsome bridge we have today.

REAL ESTATE TAX RELIEF PROGRAM EXPANDS

This spring, the Board of Supervisors voted to increase the asset cap for tax relief for seniors and persons with disabilities from \$150,000 to \$160,000. The 2002 deadline to apply for tax relief is December 31st of this year. Call Tax Administration at 703-222-8234 or my office for more information and an application.